PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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No Free Speech for Racists!

ANTI-RACISTS BATTLE KKK, KKKOPS

ANAHEIM, CA, February 27—In a pitched battle with the Ku Klux Klan and their allies in the Anaheim Police Department, local anti-racists and the Progressive Labor Party suffered casualties but also served notice: No free speech for racists!

Leading a group of bold Black, Latin, and white anti-racists, PLP fought back against KKK scum who'd planned to hold a "White Lives Matter" rally. Emboldened by the openly racist filth spewed by the capitalist ruling class's presidential candidates, KKK members felt they could intimidate Muslim and immigrant workers here. But when we heard about their planned rally, we determined to fight back.

Drawn by PLP signs that said "No Racism" and "Smash Racism with Multiracial Unity," local anti-racists gathered around us. Party members and friends used a bullhorn to lead the group in anti-Klan chants. As we distributed CHALLENGE, comrades spoke about multiracial, working-class unity as the key to fighting racism and smashing capitalism. Others explained that the battle against the KKK was just one front in the fight against the kkkops and imperialist war. Other community members were invited to speak, including a mother whose son was murdered by kkkops.

No Honor Among Slime

While we were rallying, a black SUV pulled up. Half a dozen KKK racists, dressed in black uniforms with Confederate flags and iron cross patches, slimed out. When our large group confronted them, these racist thugs speared one anti-racist with an American flagpole. We cracked their car windshield and fought back against the vicious attack. Cowed by our militancy, three Klansmen drove off in their smashed car, leaving the other three gutter racists to fend for themselves. We beat them back, even as they continued to attack us with knifes. This sexist, racist gang was beaten by a multiracial group of women and men.

Throughout the attack, the kkkops did nothing to stop the Klansmen, who were allowed to walk away from the scene with bloody knives. We would not let them get away, and a few protesters confronted the fleeing cowards. This forced the kkkops to pretend to detain the Klansmen. But even when the cops finally took the criminals' knives, they were laughing and joking with the Klan and protecting them in a cordoned-off area. While six Klan members and seven protesters were arrested, five of the Klan members were released within hours.

Sending Our Message

The aftermath? Some serious stab wounds, broken arms, ribs, and other injuries—some inflicted by Klansmen, some by kkkops. Plus three KKK thugs beaten and many more seriously intimidated. We sent a clear message: The working class will not allow our class brothers and sisters to be harrassed and attacked.

The police sent their own clear message as to whose side they are on. They defended the Klan, let most escape, and quickly released the few Klansmen they did arrest. The police are never there to defend the working class. They enforce the laws of the capitalist class, so it is no wonder they use and defend racism. Capitalism needs violent, racist intimidation to keep the working class

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OUR FIGHT

★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

★Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Trump, Clinton, Sanders: U.S. Imperialism's Many Masks

For the U.S. capitalist rulers, this year's electoral circus has one primary goal: to win back disillusioned workers and keep them loyal to the profit system and the embattled U.S. empire. After decades of vicious racist attacks to divide and weaken the working class, the bosses have upped the ante by using the current presidential campaign to attack immigrants, refugees, and Muslim workers. But the capitalists are also desperate to keep young Black and Latin voters in the patriotic fold, since they'll need them to fight the next big inter-imperialist war. These contradictory goals explain the polarizing competition between candidates like Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders.

The revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party fights to organize all workers—Black and Latin and white, immigrant and Muslim—as an international class. While capitalists in every country build nationalism to justify their wholesale theft and mass murder, PLP fights for the international working class to smash the bosses and the phony elections that mask their bloody capitalist dictatorship.

We say: Don't vote, *organize*—for workers' power and communist revolution!

How the Bosses Use Trump

Front-running Republican Donald Trump's candidacy is openly sexist, racist and uber-imperialist. He is the favored candidate of Nazis and Ku Klux Klan sympathizers the world over, from Louisiana's David Duke to France's Jean-Marie Le Pen and the Netherland's Geert Wilders. While Trump also has succeeded in rallying some disaffected white workers, hundreds of millions of others are disgusted and repulsed by his campaign.

The finance capital bosses whom Trump represents—ExxonMobil, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase—are using their media to manipulate this healthy hatred. They are doing all they can to lead workers into the arms of the bosses' liberal mouthpieces, Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders—in absolute opposition to our class interests. These so-called "lesser evils" are more dangerous to the working class than Trump. They foster the deadly illusion that the capitalist state can be reformed to meet workers' needs.

The Clintons: Liberal Racist Terror

The collapse of the old communist movement is the biggest disaster in the history of our class. In World War II, communists worldwide, led by the socialist Soviet Union, smashed Nazi Germany, at the time the ultimate expression of capitalist racism and imperialism. But socialism failed to eliminate dangerous vestiges of capitalism, like the wage system and nationalism. This political weakness gradually eroded workers' power in the Soviet Union and China. By the early 1970s, with the defeat of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China, the old communist movement's retreat from revolution was complete. This huge defeat gave world capitalism a new lease on life—and a blank check to commit genocide around the globe, from Southeast Asia to the Middle East. The Soviet Union was formally dissolved in December 1991, one month after the election of Hillary's husband, Bill Clinton, as U.S. president.

As new-generation liberal bosses with high popularity among workers, especially Black workers, the Clintons and their allies fronted for the capitalist bosses' war on the entire working class. They used welfare reform to victimize Black women and children, intensifying poverty for millions of families. They passed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, paving the way for mass incarceration and U.S. prison/jail population that now totals 2.2 million, of whom two-thirds are Black or Latin. (Hillary Clinton justified this atrocity by portraying Black youth as

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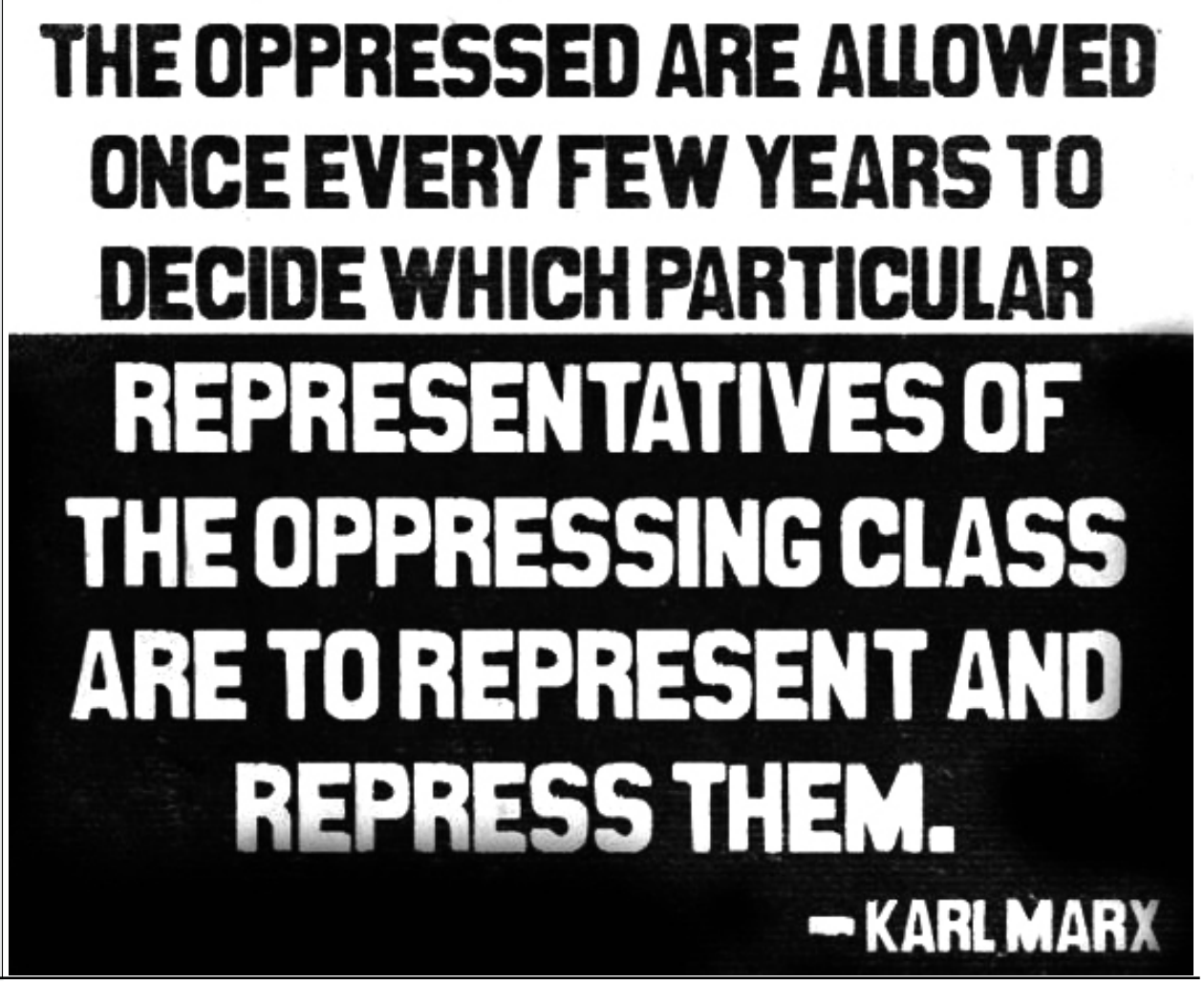

Long Legacy of Fighting Fascists

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divided and stop us from fighting back.

Anaheim has a long history of pro-Klan sentiment. Historically, many Klansmen have also been police officers or city officials. In the early 1920s, four of five City Council seats were held by Klansmen. "At the height of the group's power in Orange County, nearly 300 Klansmen lived in Anaheim, patrolling city streets in robes and masks. A large KKK rally once attracted 20,000 people to the city" (Los Angeles Times, 2/29/16). Klan activity in Southern California is not ancient history. In 2003, an eight-foot cross was burned outside a Black resident's home in Anaheim Hills. Within the past year, these cowards have left racist flyers on driveways in Whittier, Fullerton, and Santa Ana..

Our Proud History of Fightback

PLP has a strong understanding of the ties between the KKK and the police. We know the only way to stop the Klan is to fight back with organized violence. There is no such thing as a peaceful demonstration by a racist hate group. Even if they don't throw the first punch, their racist speech directly leads to more attacks against Black, Latin, and immigrant workers.

For more than 40 years, Progressive Labor Party has organized to beat back these racist attacks. In 1975, in Boston, at a May Day march and summer project, PLP stopped racists from blocking and throwing stones at buses carrying Black students who were integrating white schools. The racists never showed their faces again. In 1978, in Chicago we led a multiracial march through so-called "Nazi territory," broke into Nazi headquarters and closed it down. In 1999, in New York City, we infiltrated a KKK march and beat up its leader. They have not dared to march in New York City since.

These confrontations with the Klan and other racist groups are extremely important, but they are only the beginning of our larger fight. We must use these battles to build a mass movement for communist revolution. Only by smashing capitalism and replacing it with communism can we eliminate racism. A communist society will not tolerate free speech for racists.

KKK Grand Wizard Bill Quigg got tossed to the ground.

Across the U.S., our local fightback has sparked conversations among workers of all kinds. To consolidate our political gains, we must hold rallies of solidarity and build anti-racist struggles. In New York City, students and workers are using fundraisers for the Anaheim fighters as a way to talk to friends, coworkers, family, and people on the street about anti-racism.

What we do counts for the international working class. The more we fight back, the more it encourages other workers to do the same. When workers witness heroic militancy, they respond with overwhelming support. No matter where you are in the world, you can spark anti-racist struggle and work to tear this racist system down. Join the fightback!✪

Burn Wage Slavery

QUEENS, NYC—At a film showing of *Burn!* a woman Emergency Medical Technician announced that TransCare had shut down and laid off nearly 2,000 EMTs, paramedics, dispatchers and others.

The workers received no warning and were told they were not getting paid for the last week they worked. To add insult to injury, many learned that the paychecks they received three weeks ago had bounced!

Lynn Tilton, owner of TransCare, will continue be a millionaire while capitalism burns workers' livelihoods. The TransCare workers have no union and because they received no warning about the coming mass layoffs, were not prepared to take collective action. They began to scramble and do the little they could to protect themselves: file for unemployment benefits, file complaints with the Attorney General over the lack of notice, and contact lawyers about a suit against the company.

However, our TransCare comrade had another idea—organize workers to protest in front of the company's office in lower Manhattan. So we decided to call a rally for two days later, write a flyer, post it on Facebook and contact as many TransCare workers as we knew.

Capitalism Burns Workers

Burn! depicts a revolution of slaves in the Caribbean during the 19th century. We realized that as the film *Burn!* perfectly illustrates wage slavery is a brutal system of exploitation, and like chattel slavery it only serves the interest of the capitalist class. We decided the rally would offer us many advantages in bringing our fight to the forefront but total eradication of wage slavery will only come to fruition under a communist system, moreover a communist system led by the PLP. This led to our talking about marching on May Day (Saturday, April 30)—the only true workers' day where workers affirm their connection in the struggle for a world without racism, sexism and other forms of capitalist exploitation.

PLP fights with TransCare Workers

The first rally PLP organized drew only six workers and two supporters. Four days later, we had another rally, this time with a dozen workers and five supporters, including members of the CUNY faculty and staff union. Another rally is planned for next week.

Under capitalism, any company can shut down and throw their workers out onto the streets. So while we fight for back pay, we also need to explain to TransCare workers, and to CUNY students and professors, that we need to take state power.

Power will in the hands of working people women and men, who will carry out the task of using the wealth we create to provide everyone with the things we need: housing, health care, jobs that make use of our talents and interests, international cooperation of workers without wars and national borders, and the elimination of racism and sexism. March on May Day!✪

For Vincent and Tamir, Fight Capitalist State Terror

INDIANA—"Racism means we got to fight back!" This chant set the tone at the vigil and rally for the non-indictment of slain youth Tamir Rice and all victims of state violence.

In response to continuing racist, capitalist-created violence and government-sponsored terror, a communist-led Black Lives Matter group organized this fightback. Over 30 residents braved the below-freezing temperatures to stand in multiracial solidarity against police violence and the conditions that foster violence in our communities.

People lit candles and carried signs with the names and pictures of some of the countless victims of racist police terror across the country. Among the victims discussed was Vincent Smith Jr., a Black teenager in Gary, Indiana who was unarmed when police shot him in the head in 2006. Back then, PL'ers joined community protests to bring the cop to trial. After a sham trial, the murderer got away scot-free. Much like Tamir, Vincent was yet another Black child whose life was cut short by police terror with impunity. It's a very old song that workers know by heart.

Planting Communist Ideas

PLP had put forth the political line that there will never be justice for working class people in a capitalist system that needs to exploit to survive. Comrades have been introducing CHALLENGE to members in Black Lives Matter and highlighting how KKKop murders, crimes, garbage school systems, etc. all have a common root: capitalism. We've used the pamphlet Smash Racism to show the history of how racism is used to oppress all people, while specifically strangling Black working class people, and how organizing as a party to fight racism and to end capitalism is the only way to win.

The people in our mass organization recognize the connection between capitalism and racist state violence. At the rally, people enthusiastically took CHALLENGE and initiated conversations about how the ruling class makes money from racism, poverty, and mass incarceration. Workers here in this mainly Black region are living the racist nightmare of poverty engineered by politicians and profiteers in a dead-end capitalist system. As we build in the local movement against police violence, protests like this one provide opportunities to bring the message of communism to the masses. It is also good training for bigger fightbacks!✪

Rally Against Racism Toughens Up Working Class of Worcester

WORCESTER, MA—On Martin Luther King's birthday Progressive Labor Party provided a revolutionary alternative to the passivity and treachery of local liberal misleaders and the working class responded in force! The Progressive Labor Party and friends organized a militant march against racism while the town bosses lorded over a traditional Martin Luther King Day breakfast which they hijacked from grassroots organizers years ago. In defiance of the local bosses scores of people came to our march despite the very cold temperatures.

Liberal Bosses Exposed

Sharp struggle at the breakfast exposed fascists masquerading as liberals. A fighter was injured when police arrested him for passing out fliers on predatory lending practices—at a breakfast for Dr. King! A city official who was co-chair of the MLK Day breakfast ordered the arrest of the activist. Scratch a liberal—find a fascist!

PLP and others organized our march against racism. We protested retaliatory criminal charges brought against four protesters who blocked our city's busiest intersection some time ago. We marched from a church on Temple St. to this intersection, Kelly Square. We showed the bosses and our working class brothers and sisters that we will not be intimidated by retaliatory prosecutions.

Our marchers were reflective of the whole working class. Among the marchers were women and men, Asian, Latin, Black, and white, young and old, Christians, Muslims, Jews, and atheists. One of our friends is a survivor of the Holocaust who is nearly 100 years old; he came and marched the entire distance.

At Kelly Square, we held a rally in where speakers connected capitalism and racism. Our words echoed across the frigid intersection, heard by passers-by and spread word of mouth, social media, and the local press. One speaker demanded a $15 minimum wage. Another demanded an end to mass incarcerations and discrimination against ex prisoners. The main speaker from PLP called for end of the capitalist system, which needs racism, with communist revolution.

To Be Attacked is Good

Racist columnists in our local paper were especially hateful in their attacks on the march and on PLP that appeared in print the next day. To be attacked is a good thing! In ensuing days the working class responded by sending letters to the editor defending our march against racism. The church near where we met for the assembly for the rally was attacked by some of the city bosses, even though it did not directly endorse the rally. Illusions about what side the city bosses are on cannot persist in the face of such brazen assaults on anti-racist fighters, especially with PLP in the mix constantly raising the need for workers to break with the bosses leaders and to become leaders ourselves in the fight for a communist world.

Because of this march, the working class of Worcester has become stronger in the fight against racism and economic injustice.✪

Elections: Choose Your Capitalist Poison

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"super-predators" with "no conscience, no empathy….we have to bring them to heel.")

They approved international trade agreements like NAFTA that destroyed countless jobs and drove down living standards for workers in both the U.S. and Mexico. They slaughtered 500,000 Iraqi children through sanctions and indiscriminate bombing. (Bill Clinton's former Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, called this genocide "worth it." She is now a vocal Hillary Clinton supporter.)

Hillary Clinton's close and longstanding ties to Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, and Goldman Sachs are no secret. As a U.S. senator, she enthusiastically backed the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq to shore up U.S. control over Middle Eastern oil—and kill hundreds of thousands of civilians in the process. As Obama's Secretary of State, she helped engineer the use of military force in Libya and Syria, still-expanding conflicts that have killed hundreds of thousands more and left millions on the run. Her loyalty to finance capital cannot be questioned.

Capitalist Crisis and Racist Scapegoating

Over the last decade, U.S. workers have suffered ever-worsening racist terror and steeply declining living standards. Under Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Barack Obama, the U.S. working class—and especially Black workers—paid for the Great Recession, triggered by the bosses' financial crisis of 2007-8, to the tune of billions of dollars in lost homes and jobs.

Donald Trump's appeal is primarily to white workers with little or no understanding of capitalist class rule. While much of their anger scapegoats immigrants and Muslims, the true source of their anger is the financial crisis and the death of their hopes for the future—a reflection of the relative decline of U.S. capitalism. The domestic-oriented rivals to the main wing of U.S. capitalism, led by the Koch brothers, are bankrolling groups and politicians to orchestrate this anger into votes for arch-racists like Ted Cruz, Trump's main rival (at least for now) for the Republican nomination. Meanwhile, Trump figures to gain more finance capitalist support—if only to undermine the Kochs.

One of Trump's biggest backers is Charles Icahn, a billionaire activist investor closely connected to the Rockefeller family. Icahn holds a major stake in the world's third-largest media conglomerate, Time Warner, which owns a number of movie studios and television networks, including cable news CNN. Icahn also partially controls Chevron-Texaco, an influential booster (along with ExxonMobil) of the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Bernie Sanders: No Working-Class Hero

Many honest workers alarmed by Trump are supporting Clinton or Sanders, in absolute opposition to their own class interests. In reality, Sanders is the liberal equivalent of Trump. His mission is to draw masses of workers into the voting process, a fig leaf of legitimacy for their blood-soaked system.

Sanders' record as a U.S. congressman and senator reveals which side he is on. As Counterpunch reported on March 4, here are just a few of his crimes against the international working class:

> *…his open embrace of Obama's Drone War;…his sickening defense of Israel's mass murder of Palestinian children in Gaza; his vote for the funding of U.S. military forces occupying Iraq;…his equally terrible support (as a fake-independent US Congressman) for Bill Clinton's unnecessary and criminal bombing of Serbia;…his call for the arch-reactionary and arch-fundamentalist, head-chopping Saudi Arabian regime… to step up its murderous military role in the Middle East….*
>
> *The Democratic Party (with which Sanders has been strongly if stealthily affiliated since at least the early 1990s) is the great and longstanding killing floor for radical and grassroots activism…. If Sanders had been remotely serious about getting Black voters, he would have run early and hard against the Clintons' vicious and deeply racist 1996 welfare "reform" (a measure that Hillary writes about with great admiration in her recent memoir)…[and the] Clintons' three strikes mass incarceration-ist crime bill.*

But Sanders was never serious about beating Hillary Clinton. From the start, he understood his role: to bring younger workers inside the rulers' electoral tent, and to keep them from rebelling in the streets.

Many sectors of the U.S. working class, Black and white, from Ferguson to Baltimore, have lost faith in voting and shown a willingness to rebel. Unfortunately, the bosses' racism deeply infects, separates and holds back our class—temporarily—from multiracial unity.

As members of Progressive Labor Party and readers of CHALLENGE, we must understand our role, as well. With our friends and within our mass organizations, we must lead the way in exposing the dead end of the bosses' electoral politics—and in organizing to smash the deadly capitalism system, once and for all.✪

Students Expose Columbia's Racism

NEW YORK CITY, March 7—PLP has been fighting to smash racism at Columbia University, organizing and forming study groups within the Student Worker Solidarity (SWS) club, which currently is fighting for a $15 minimum wage on campus.

SWS's fight is an antiracist one for low-income, mainly Black and Latin student workers here, who earn most of their living expenses via work-study programs. Often, they cannot afford food or books on their pitiful salary.

The college often fails to pay students for months after their work is done. Graduate students, who do much of the undergraduate teaching, are attempting to unionize to guarantee themselves a livable wage.

This while the school sits on a $9.6 billion endowment! But what does capitalism care if it leaves these students out to hang, while bosses steal the profits?

Last Thursday, 40 militant SWS students again marched to the administrators' offices of Columbia and Barnard after rallying and dropping a banner on the main university quadrangle.

They plan to hold these marches every two weeks. Students from other groups joined them, reflecting the recently formed coalition of all activist students. They've approached faculty members to garner support, and two departments, sociology and history, have agreed to their demand. Two other small administrative units have also acceded to a higher wage.

Many faculty members are sympathetic but too intimidated to voice their support, fearful of losing their jobs. Indeed, the University has been threatening disciplinary action against undergraduate activists.

Columbia's wealth is devoted to educating the U.S. financial and political elite. However, the massive student strike of 1968 and the civil rights movement forced them to admit more Black, Latin, immigrant and working-class students, and they now brag about their diversity and of accepting of students regardless of financial need—as if they've suddenly turned anti-racist.

In addition to the $15/hour demand, SWS is also pressing the campus to pay volunteers.

Impoverished student volunteers can't participate in volunteer programs, which may involve working in the community, making ties with future employers or providing medical services. One pre-med student was interested in the emergency medical service, but could not afford it as not only are volunteers unpaid, but they are expected to pay $3,000 for training.

This group of students, and many more at Columbia, are engaged in fighting racism in the community as well.

Columbia is in the process of building a new campus on 35 acres of land they've taken over in west Harlem, displacing Black and Latin residents and businesses and helping gentrify the area. Students participated in a sleep-in on the streets of Harlem several years ago and have also allied with the struggles against police brutality and evictions.

Increasingly, they are realizing that poverty, racism unemployment and war cannot be solved under capitalism and that eventually the system must be overthrown. Many who have been long-time intellectual opponents of capitalism are realizing that to overthrow capitalism one must belong to and organize with a party with a long-term outlook, vision of the future, and program of fightback. With consistent struggle, we can raise class-consciousness and destroy racism through organized communist revolution.✪

Tear Down Racist Criminal Injustice System

MARYLAND, March 2 —The fight against the racist 1974 Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBR) is intensifying. The murder of Freddie Gray by Baltimore cops sparked mass rebellion and led to an enduring upsurge in public protests. People have taken to the streets and invaded the halls of government to denounce the racist terror tactics of law enforcement and demand justice for victims of police terror.

Cops Protect their Right to Terrorize

The centerpiece of the capitalist system's protection of cops in Maryland is the1974 Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBR). This law limits the deadline to file complaints against police terror to 90 days, lacks meaningful oversight of police conduct by residents, allows cops 10 days to get their collective lies together before they can be questioned, prohibits internal police department hearings until after criminal charges against the cops have been resolved, and blocks any consequences within the department if a board of fellow cops decides there is insufficient evidence of excessive force. Talk about the fox guarding the hen house!

In the Reform For Revolution

Progressive Labor Party has joined a range of groups and individuals holding press conferences, staging protests and testifying before Maryland legislators. Legislation won't stop killer kkkops, but illusions die hard. But, by battling on all fronts, including the legislative arena, the PLP is winning more workers to the idea that it takes mass rebellion like Baltimore and Ferguson make change.

Our participation has informed these actions with a revolutionary communist perspective that has enlightened and engaged many friends in the struggle. The value of our work goes beyond the immediate issue. After all, any legislative change will have little impact on police terror because it is rooted in the system itself. But by exposing the police and the government as an instrument of capitalist oppression, we can strengthen the foundation of our movement to abolish capitalism.

The reinforcement of racial inequalities by state power serves the profit interests of the capitalist class, which benefits from repression and intimidation of the most oppressed sections of the working class in order to undermine class solidarity. Racism is a tool designed to drive a wedge between workers—Black, Latin, Asian, and white—so the capitalists can continue to extract maximum profits from labor.

So when cops commit outrageous acts of racist violence, the criminal (in)justice system protects them. It will take a revolution to demolish the capitalist state. More and more, the working class in Maryland is recognizing that we need to dismantle the racist criminal (in)justice system that essentially guards the bosses' profits and property.

We Rebel Against the Bosses' Laws

Some 150 Maryland residents followed up on the MLK Day die-in (see CHALLENGE 2/25) on with a vigorous, rally-style press conference inside the Maryland House of Delegates Office Building that forcefully attacked LEOBR. Petty changes to LEOBR have been proposed by state legislators in response to last year's Baltimore rebellion. But the bill still has the police controlling their own review and disciplinary process and limits the time to file complaints.

More than 20 anti-racist fighters of all ages and ethnicities filled the conference room of Delegate Joseph Vallario, Chair of the Maryland House Judiciary Committee. Led by the mother of a young Black man murdered by a cop, and barely controlling their anger, they pressed Vallario to move the bill with stronger amendments instead of quashing reform like he has done for years. He hesitated, clearly shaken by this bold confrontation.

At the press conference that followed, a PLP member decried the long history of police terror in Maryland, emphasizing that its source is the capitalist profit motive. Two representatives of a local community group gave spoken word, one affirming support for the uprising in Baltimore by repeating the refrain "we rebel" throughout his piece. Mothers of murdered youth spoke of the anguish of losing their children to police thuggery and called on others not to wait until police murder was at their front doors. Calls for robust amendments to the LEOBR bill rang out from the diverse crowd of Maryland residents.

Testimony before the Judiciary Committee continued well into the evening and was attended by large numbers of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). Officer William G. Porter, one of the cops indicted for Freddie Gray's murder, had the nerve to show up to oppose any change in LEOBR. Protesters filmed his arrogant presence. He confronted Tawanda Jones, a leader of the weekly Tyrone West rallies in Baltimore for more than two years seeking justice for the July 2013 police murder of her brother, Tyrone West, demanding to know why he was being filmed. The cop then denied his identity.

On March 1, public outrage over LEOBR moved to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee where Maryland residents vehemently confronted some cop-loving senators. The fight against racist cops must be an international one, linking capitalist state violence from one country to another. Workers all over need communist revolution to put the working class in state power!✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Cultivating Communist Middle School Students

We recently held our fourth middle school study group session, which is led by a multiracial group of women. The study group is made up of three PLP parents of middle schoolers and five 11- and 12-year-olds. There are also another four to five students who have been to at least one of the study groups.

So far we have discussed metal detectors in schools, the Islamic State and the Paris attacks, racism and white privilege, and sexism. Six of these youth also recently attended our east coast Cadre School (see previous issue of CHALLENGE). At the discussions, we always have lots of good snacks and plenty of silliness, but I'm always impressed at the ability of these young people to analyze the world.

The following is the way one of the 11-year olds summed up our discussion on sexism: "Sexism is just a tool the upper class uses a lot to make the lower class feel 'suckish' and bad. Lots of people don't really understand what is happening [when they act in sexist ways] but they need to, because when they do, it will be a step towards beating the upper class"

We then made plans for how to fundraise and make banners for May Day. All of these young people always help to remind me that our future in building a communist revolutionary movement is bright!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Comrades Struggle, Learn Together

This past president's day weekend PLP had a very successful communist school. Nearly 20 comrades and friends from Los Angeles and the Bay Area came together to discuss leadership, criticism and self-criticism, and our political work. Over the course of three days and serious (and at times intense) discussion, we made several advances.

Saturday morning began with a welcoming breakfast followed by a reading and discussion of leadership. Afterwards we broke out into groups and discussed the nature of leadership in the world and in the Party. We concluded that while some comrades might be asked to be leaders, in fact leadership is an active process. The comrade leaders must "step up" to the leadership role. We discussed the role of the leader in a Party club (which is the initial organizing body in the Party) and discussed how a club leader must struggle to understand and help encourage each club member's work.

That afternoon, we transitioned to a discussion of our work and working in the mass movement. Many of us have not fully embraced working in mass organizations like unions, churches, and community groups. As we discussed the need to fully engage ourselves in our mass organization, some comrades realized that we had treated this work in a mechanical way. Just going to meetings and participating in activities is not the same as being actively engaged in the life and struggles of a mass organization. We need to entrench ourselves in our mass organization in order to successfully wage political struggle. Our main self-criticisms were that anti-communism and individualism were holding us back.

The next day, we discussed a work report from a recent PLP publication. We discussed how to emulate the work of this comrade, who really made his base his family and immersed himself in the struggle over decades. While taking great inspiration from the work report, it was pointed out that there was little discussion of the role of the PL club in the work report comrade's struggles. Having healthy clubs to struggle with comrades and strive towards objectivity help all of us to succeed.

That afternoon, we discussed criticism and self-criticism, which is a way the members evaluate and learn from their struggles and mistakes. This was an undertone of many discussions. We discussed whether criticism and self-criticism sessions were rare or whether they should be more regular. Some comrades argued that we cannot limit criticism and self-criticism to formal events when leadership is changing or when things go poorly. We should see each club meeting as a time for criticism and self-criticism. We should discuss work, the world and internal party matters and discuss them from the perspective of criticism and self-criticism. Self-reflection, honesty and openness should be the goal in every party struggle.

Struggles inside the Party are necessary for the health and growth of our organization and our readiness to lead the masses.

Monday morning we concluded by discussing our May Day plans and ensured all the actions required to build for our May Day celebrations. In the end we all seemed to leave more motivated to build for a successful communist May Day!

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Don't Fall for Bosses' Racist 'Model Minority' Trap

I normally distribute CHALLENGE every week at a mostly Black college or outside a train station in a West Indian neighborhood. Whenever people hear me say, "Fight back against racism!" they eagerly take the paper with a "thank you!" or fish through their pockets for any money they can muster to donate.

Today was different. Because of the explosion of antiracist fightback at Brooklyn Tech, I distributed the paper with the front-page article about this school's fightback. Stocked with 350 CHALLENGEs, three comrades and I stood by the train station that many students use to get to the school. Whereas papers normally fly out of my hands, I was lucky to get even one person out of twenty to take it. Some of the mostly Asian and white students even rolled their eyes when I said, "Fight back against racism in our schools!" as though I was wasting their time or exaggerating the racism that Black and Latin students experience every day.

I was enraged by their indifference for their fellow students. It reminded me of a conversation I had with my Asian friend at Yale University, where there was a recent eruption of antiracist fightback. I asked her what she thought about everything going on, and she said:

"I was struggling between my sympathy and desire to stand with all the people of color who were protesting their treatment, and the fact that I've been brought up to stay out of any such issue. My parents always said to keep my head down, and many other Asians come from similar backgrounds. The weird concept of the "model minority" makes it feel unnatural to step out of line and protest racism, since the racism we experience is covert."

This conversation with my friend and today's CHALLENGE sale both reminded me of the way the bosses divide Black and Latin workers from Asian and white workers. They make some white and Asian working class believe that racism doesn't affect them, or that their struggles are in contradiction with those of Black and Latin workers. They are fed lies that if they keep quiet and don't fightback, they can get their own piece of the capitalist pie. The bosses push this bogus concept of the "model minority"—the stereotype that Asians, specifically East Asians, are the docile "good" workers that don't fight back but only work hard and "do well". The model minority myth is used to further anti-Black racism and divide the working class. It also silences the very real racism Asian workers face in the U.S.

In reality, Asian and white workers are exploited and oppressed worldwide, just like Black and Latin workers. Moreover, as long as we maintain racist divisions, every worker sees lower pay and fewer benefits. Our fight is not against other workers, but against the bosses who impoverish us. There is no doubt that Black workers are the most oppressed and exploited workers around the world, but we all suffer under capitalism. Asian, Latin, Black, and white, workers of the world unite!

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Challenge Shouldn't Use Slang

The recent language used in CHALLENGE articles has caught my attention and it should be changed. I believe that as left-wing militant, scientific, communist members of PLP we should be as professional as we can be. So we should limit the use of slang in the newspaper as much as possible.

"Turnt up" and other slang should be limited or not used at all. It sets the wrong kind of image. While slang is very popular among working-class youth, some people don't even know what it is saying. I am not saying let's be all academic so please don't take it that way. I am just saying we should be careful about slang and limit our use of it.

Editorial response: *The problem of audience and language in CHALLENGE is primarily not about professionalism vs. colloquialism. CHALLENGE has the most heterogeneous readership in the world; we try to reach nuclear physicists and the kid who was pushed out of school at age 13. In* Talks At The Yenan Forum On Literature And Art*(1942), Mao Zedong explains the main problem in the literature/art/cultural front is one of being one with the masses. How well do we know the working class? How well does our literature clearly reflect the language of the masses?*

Under capitalism, the language and discourse of the ruling class is considered proper and normal, while what the working class speaks is considered bad. If using "Turnt Up" sets the "wrong" image, i.e. the image of Black and Latin working-class youth, we need to reevaluate what kind of language we value.

We strive to be a mass paper, one that truly reflects the rich, lively language of the masses. To solve this problem, we need more people—from academics to nine-year-olds writing for, distributing, and reading the paper. Our main task is to be entrenched in the masses, and the paper's content and style will follow. For real.

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The Anti-Racist Friendship of Boxers Joe and Max

There is an interesting historical sidelight of a point in the excellent review of Black communist writer Richard Wright's work (CHALLENGE, 2/24). It mentions Wright's take on the reaction of Harlem workers to Black heavyweight champion boxer Joe Louis's 1938 victory over Nazi Germany's Max Schmeling, who had two years earlier defeated Louis when he (Schmeling) was heavyweight boxing champion.

It turns out that Schmeling was not only a reluctant representative sent by Hitler to defeat a Black boxer (Louis), but, apparently unbeknownst to them, he was a political opponent of the Nazis. He and his wife had helped hide some Jewish children from the Nazi mass murderers in Germany, at great risk to his life and hers. Furthermore, he and Joe Louis subsequently became fast friends for life, an unusual interracial friendship in those days, at least outside of the Communist Party USA.

Their story is told, as well as any story is ever told in a US production, in a 2002 TV movie titled "Joe and Max," which I thought was worth seeing.

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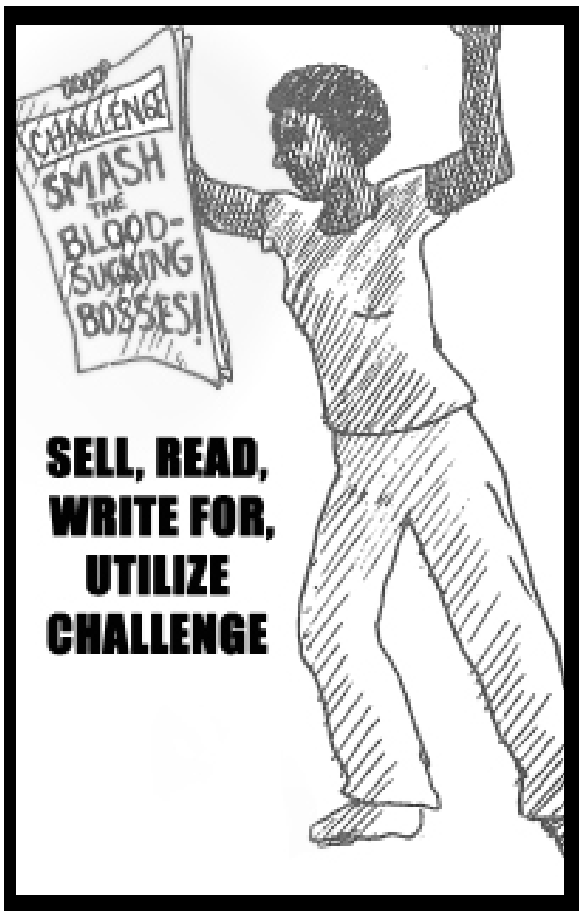

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Fighting Sexism Vital to Revolution

Continued from page 8

years (Deutsche Welle, 3/16/15). In India, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi brutally suppressed striking railway workers and pushed their families out of their homes. In Britain, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher attacked striking miners, closed unprofitable industries and privatized those that remained.

Why is it that women politicians don't make things better for working-class women? Merkel, Clinton, and Gandhi are allied with the capitalist class. The capitalists fund their campaigns and dictate their policies. Sexism means lower pay for everyone, for both men and women, and superprofits for the bosses. Men's wages are depressed precisely because women's are even more depressed. Sexism means that working families, and working mothers in particular, are overburdened by childcare and housework. Sexism means that women are a disposable labor force for the bosses. When the occasional woman attains a position of power, the bosses use this exception as another excuse to blame other women for being poor.

Above all, the capitalist bosses need sexism to exploit and divide the working class.

Communism Will Smash Sexism

And so: What is to be done? How can we eliminate sexism? Sexism is inseparable from class society. The only way to end it is to eliminate classes by creating a communist society, where all workers can contribute and have our needs met. Revolutionary victories of the past show us the potential of the future. In socialist China, prostitution was virtually eliminated. In the socialist Soviet Union, educational facilities at all levels granted equal access to men and women. (At the height of the Soviet era, 60 percent of engineers were women.) Maternity leave with full pay was universal; new mothers had no worry about losing their jobs. There were ample kindergartens, day care centers, nurseries, and playgrounds, as well as communal dining rooms. The concept of housekeeping as "women's work" was abolished.

While the Soviet and Chinese revolutions made progress in many ways, they also had flaws we can learn from. They represent only the beginning of what we, the working class, can achieve in the future! This International Working Women's Day, we must celebrate women as the holiday's communist founders intended: for their historical contributions to building society and for their revolutionary strength.

But one day is not enough. We must dedicate ourselves to a lifetime of fighting sexism in our homes, at our jobs, and in the streets. In Pakistan, Progressive Labor Party is advancing the leadership of women in the fight against slave-labor working conditions for men and especially women. In PLP in Brooklyn, women are leading the fight for justice for Kyam Livingston, Shantel Davis, and Kimani Gray, all killed by racist and sexist kkkops. In PLP in Mexico, women comrades are at the forefront of the fight against racist education reforms and fascist state terror.

This International Working Women's Day, let's celebrate women as the holiday's communist founders intended: for their historical contributions to building society and for their revolutionary strength.

All around the world, waging anti-sexist battles is a way to put another nail in the bosses' coffins. Help us bury the bosses and their profit system! Join PLP in the fight against sexism, racism, and capitalism. Let's work together to create a communist society that meets all workers' needs and frees us of exploitation. We have a world to win!✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Concentration camps profit off refugees

NYT, 2/26 — Immigration and Customs Enforcement calls the detention center in Dilley, Tex., a "family residential center." But to the 2,000 migrant children and mothers…there, it's something else: "People who say this is not a prison are lying,"…a detainee…told Fusion last year. "It's a prison for us and a prison for our children, but none of us are criminals."

…The Corrections Corporation of America [CCA], America's largest private prison…company….is part of a…global…warehousing [of] immigrants and asylum-seekers at remote sites maintained by for-profit corporations. The United Nations estimates that one in every 122 people on the planet is displaced….

It has become a multimillion-dollar industry….Hero Norway runs 90 refugee centers in Norway and 10 in Sweden….Australia's government has contracted…Broadspectrum to manage…detention camps in Nauru and Papua New Guinea for asylum seekers. In Britain, Prime Minister David Cameron's government awarded…Serco a seven-year contract…worth over $100 million for running the Yarl's Wood immigrant detention center….

…The [CCA] has a long history of ignoring detainee safety….Serco has been…overcharging…for substandard work. One doctor who worked at a site run by Broadspectrum in Nauru told The Guardian that the detention center was "reminiscent of Guantánamo Bay"….

…The [CCA]…lobbied politicians to keep more people behind bars….Congress requires that at least 34,000 people be housed daily in detention centers — a so-called detention bed mandate….

…These corporations look likely to get richer and richer as more people around the world flee their homes, desperately seeking safety.

S.A. protesters force university closing

NYT, 2/26 — Students…[left] behind smoldering buildings….burn[ing] an administration building and science center at a campus…in Mafikeng….Student protesters across South Africa are calling for lower tuition, more student housing and efforts to erase…South Africa's racist past.

Clinton backed racist 1994 mass incarceration law

NYT, 2/29 — Days before Hillary Clinton's…overwhelming [primary] victory over rival Bernie Sanders in South Carolina…a young…black activist, Ashley Williams…in Charlotte, N.C…..was planning to confront the candidate about her support of policies — specifically the 1994 crime bill — that contributed to the explosion of racially tilted mass incarceration in this country….

…A now infamous speech Clinton gave in 1996…said: "We need to take these people on….They are…called super-predators: no conscience, no empathy…."

…Williams…whole life has borne the bruises of what was done, largely by Democrats….

She said she has grown up knowing families and whole communities devastated by vanishing Black people, swept away into a criminal justice system that pathologized their very personage….

Williams….also said that Sanders was wrong for actually voting for the bill.

Egypt's Arab Spring convicts 3-year-old

NYT, 2/24 — CAIRO — Your honor, my client was only a year old at the time of the crime.

But it did not stop an Egyptian military court from convicting the accused, a boy now 3½, of killing three people, carrying guns and firebombs, blocking a road with burning tires and trying to damage government buildings — and sentencing him to life in prison.

The verdict came…in a mass trial of 107 people…and the charges stemmed from the protests, street clashes and police crackdowns….

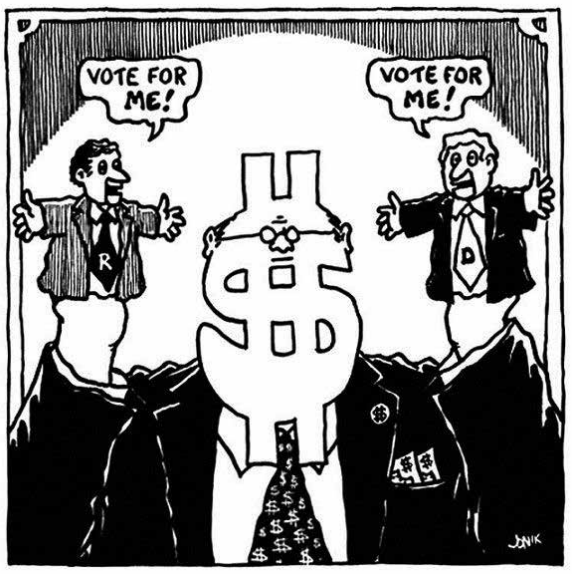
After an uproar over the conviction of the boy…the military said it was a case of mistaken identity… [They] had actually meant to try a 16-year-old student with the same name….

But that, too, may be a mistake….A police spokesman…said…the wanted culprit was the toddler's uncle, a 51-year-old man….

Haiti: UN caused cholera epidemic

NYT, 3/2 — …United Nations peacekeepers…brought cholera to Haiti after their deployment in 2010 following a disastrous earthquake…[but] has asserted that a 1946 convention on privileges and immunities insulates it from…legal action….

"Immunity does not mean impunity,"…[said] a lawyer for…a legal advocacy group…helping represent the



cholera victims….

There is little dispute that the peacekeepers were at fault, as supported by medical studies including some of the United Nations' own findings….

The cholera epidemic has killed more than 9,000 people in Haiti and infected more than 800,000.

What recovery?

NYT, 2/25 — The gap between the richest and poorest American communities has widened since the Great Recession ended [?] and distressed areas are faring worse across much of the country….

From 2010 and 2013,…employment in the most prosperous neighborhoods…jumped by more than a fifth….But in the bottom-ranked neighborhoods…jobs fell sharply….

"It's almost like you are looking at two different countries," said [the]…director of…the Distressed Communities Index….

While the problems in many poorer cities predate the recession…a real recovery…has left the worst-off locations…even further behind….

In the nation's most distressed communities…. more than half of adults don't have a job….Officially, the economy has grown every year since 2010….But a…poll last year showed that 64 percent of people still thought the economy was in a recession….

In San Antonio, ranked as the most spatially unequal city in the country….42 percent lived below the poverty line.

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International Working Women's Day

FIGHT SEXISM, BUILD COMMUNISM

Mutiracial group of women workers lead May Day march. Join us for May Day 2016!

What is International Working Women's Day?

International Women's Day (IWD) is an international holiday on March 8 that celebrates women and their revolutionary power. It has strong roots in the communist movement. IWD first began in New York as "Women's Day," organized by the Socialist Party of America. In 1909, it became a commemoration of the 1908 strike of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. In the 1910 international meeting of communist and socialist leaders, known as the Second International, women members pushed to establish an International Women's Day. By 1911, more than a million workers were celebrating IWD. Anti-sexist struggle continues to make it an historic day for all workers, women and men.

During Czarist Russia, the struggle for working-class women became synonymous with the open call for overthrowing the government. During World War I, the Russian Bolsheviks made IWD a demonstration of women workers against imperialism. On March 8, 1917, the women of St. Petersburg sparked and led the February Revolution, which in turn paved the way for the October revolution and the first workers' state.

As we mark International Working Women's Day on March 8, the state of the world seems grim. Imperialist wars fueled by the U.S., Russia and China are intensifying. Capitalist economies are in crisis or on the brink. As always, instability in the profit system means more attacks on working-class women.

In Syria, a civil war manipulated by the U.S. and Russia has displaced millions of women. They are twice as likely to die from shelling or air strikes as men. In refugee camps in countries like Jordan, where women and children compose more than 80 percent of the population, they are at higher risk of sexual assault. Often they lack basic reproductive and sexual health services, resulting in higher death rates.

In the U.S., President Barack Obama is ramping up racist deportations of women and children who fled north to escape pervasive violence in Latin America—a result of two centuries of U.S. imperialism. Women are the majority of immigrants entering the U.S. on the "Train of Death." An estimated 100,000 women per year are kidnapped into forced labor and, increasingly, sex slavery (Congressional Research Service, 7/29/15). The situation is worsening by the day. Drug cartels are shifting their operations into highly profitable global trafficking networks, while capitalist governments look the other way.

As for the immigrant women who survive the journey to the U.S. and now face deportation, what is waiting for them at home? A Zika virus linked to deadly diseases and birth defects, with capitalist health services promoting abstinence as the only solution.

Feminism vs. Fightback

In reaction to these sexist attacks, some women workers choose feminism and the dead end of identity politics. Millions are rallying behind Hillary Clinton's campaign slogan: "I'm with her." They are being won to the dangerous idea that a woman president will somehow make things better for women workers—an echo of Obama's election in 2008 as a "post-racial" president. Eight years later, Obama's racist immigration apparatus has deported more workers than all previous presidents combined. His administration has murdered thousands of workers with drone strikes. He continued his Republican predecessor's policies of forcing workers to bail out the very banks that profited most from the genocidal war in Iraq. These banks also evicted millions of workers, of whom a disproportionate number are Black workers, from their homes.

Here is the hard reality of the profit system: If elected, Clinton will do no more for women workers than Obama did for Black workers.

Internationally, the same trend holds true. In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel has failed to improve conditions for working women, who are stuck at 78 percent men's income for comparable work, a ratio unchanged for the past five

Continued on page 7

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